

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 SS-15

MMS-03 IGA-02 RSR-01 /113 W
----- 074298

R 281606Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8722

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

S E C R E T SANTO DOMINGO 3464

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SANTO 03464 281718Z

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF USCINCSO FROM PANAMA

REF: STATE 164406

1. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TRANSFER OF USCINCSO FROM THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE TO ANOTHER LOCATION WITHIN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES WOULD BE BOTH FEASIBLE AND DESIRABLE AND WOULD SERVE OUR INTERESTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE. THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF A SIGNIFICANT U.S. MILITARY COMMAND IN PANAMA CONSTITUTES AN UNWELCOME REMINDER TO MANY LATIN AMERICANS OF OUR ALLEGED ROLE AS POLICEMAN FOR THE HEMISPHERE. MANY ALSO VIEW THE COMMAND IN PANAMA AS AN ANACHRONISM REMINISCENT OF THE DAYS OF "BIG STICK" DIPLOMACY. GIVEN THE CONTINUING RISE OF NATIONALISTIC FERVOR IN LATIN AMERICA, WE BELIEVE THE COMMAND WILL BE AN INCREASING TARGET OF CRITICISM. A MAJOR SOURCE OF RESENTMENT WOULD BE REMOVED BY THE TRANSFER OF USCINCSO OUT OF LATIN AMERICA.

2. WITH RESPECT TO ESTABLISHING THAT COMMAND IN PUERTO RICO, WE AGREE WITH CARACAS 7235 THAT THE ISLAND WOULD BE A POOR CHOICE. THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TRANSFER OF USCINCSO FROM ONE U.S. JURISDICTION IN LATIN AMERICA TO ANOTHER. IF A TRANSFER IS TO TAKE PLACE AT ALL, AND WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD, THEN THE CONTINENTAL U.S. SEEMS TO BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE PLACE.

3. AS FOR THE VIEWS OF THIRD NATIONS ON US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE CANAL ZONE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT MOST COUNTRIES WELCOME, OR AT LEAST UNDERSTAND, THE ASSURANCE OF STABILITY WITH REGARD TO THE OPERATION OF THE CANAL WHICH THE IMMEDIATE PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES THERE PROVIDE. NONETHELESS, AT ISSUE HERE IS THE SIZE OF OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE CANAL ZONE WHICH SHOULD BE NO MORE THAN IS CONSONANT WITH OUR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF PROTECTING THE CANAL AND KEEPING IT OPEN.
CROWLEY

SECRET

NNN

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